



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## Amendment 6 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region Available for Public Review and Comment

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is soliciting public comment on Amendment 6 to the Shrimp FMP. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council submitted Amendment 6 for review, approval, and implementation by the Secretary of Commerce. Amendment 6 proposes several actions, which are briefly summarized below.

- Transfer authority from the Council to NMFS for modifying the shrimp Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD) testing protocol.
- Modify the bycatch reduction certification criteria from species-specific targets to a general 30 percent finfish reduction.
- Require the use of BRDs in the rock shrimp fishery in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
- Establish standardized bycatch reporting requirements for the shrimp fishery of the South Atlantic EEZ.
- Require all vessels harvesting brown, white or pink (penaeid) shrimp in the South Atlantic EEZ to obtain an annually renewable federal shrimp vessel permit from NMFS.
- Establish or modify designations of maximum sustainable yield, optimum yield, overfishing and overfished for penaeid and rock shrimp.

For a complete description of the actions, please obtain a copy of Amendment 6 (see Addresses and Dates). The proposed actions in Amendment 6 are intended to enhance the ecological efficiency of the shrimp fishery of the South Atlantic EEZ by better identifying the bycatch in the fishery and conserving those species found in the bycatch, while sustaining the viability of the shrimp fishery with a minimum of economic and social impacts.

**ADDRESSES AND DATES:** Copies of Amendment 6, which includes a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, a Regulatory Impact Review, and an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis are available from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 1 Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699; phone: 843-571-4366;

fax: 843-769-4520; toll free: 866-SAFMC-10; email: [safmc@samfc.net](mailto:safmc@samfc.net).

Written comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., eastern time, on May 6, 2005. Comments may be submitted via email, written correspondence, or fax.

**E-mail:** 0648-AS16.NOA@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line the following document identifier: 0648-AS16-NOA.

**Federal e-Rulemaking Portal:** Follow the instructions at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**Mail:** Steve Branstetter, Southeast Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, Florida 33702.

**Fax:** From March 7 through March 17, 2005, fax to 727-570-5583. From March 22 through May 6, 2005, fax to 727-824-5308. No fax option is available from March 18 through 21, 2005.

A proposed rule that would implement measures outlined in Amendment 6 has been received from the Council, and that proposed rule also will be published in the *Federal Register* for public review and comment. Comments received by May 6, 2005, will be considered by NMFS in its decision to approve, disapprove, or partially approve the amendment. All comments received by NMFS on the amendment or the proposed rule during their respective comment periods will be addressed in the final rule.

NMFS is dedicated to protecting and preserving the nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NMFS provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public. NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

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